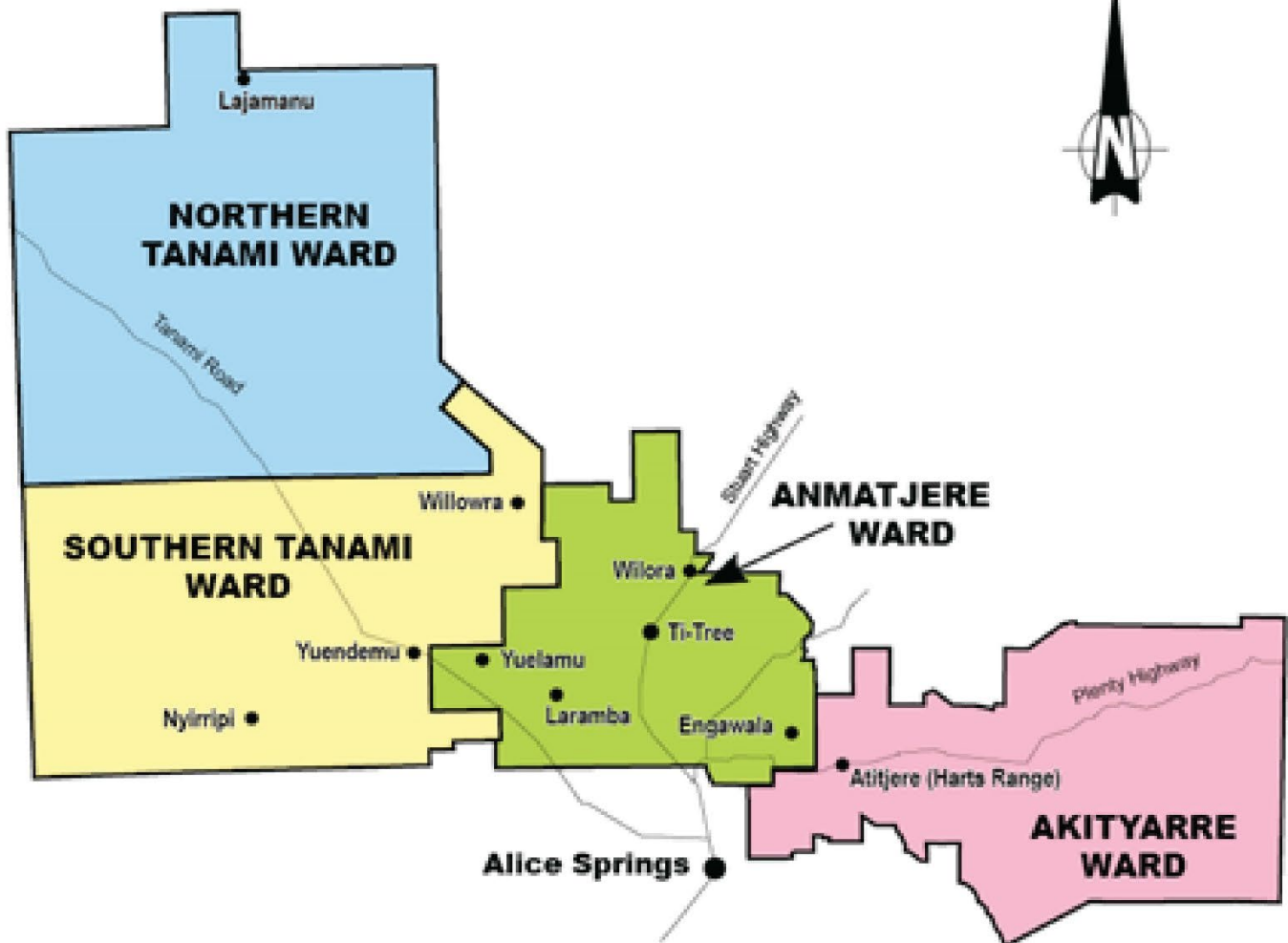


Central Desert Regional Council Election Report



CENTRAL DESERT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

two ways :: one outcome



NTEC version control

2021 Local Government Elections - Central Desert Regional Council report

Version Number	Purpose/change	Author	Date
1.0	Final version approved by K. Kelly	K. Kelly NTEC	01/02/2022
1.1	Addition of version control Removal of blank page	M. O'Brien	12/04/22

Disclaimer

Copyright © 2022. This document may not be reproduced without permission. This document is controlled and has been released electronically. The version the NTEC website is the up to date document. Hard copies are uncontrolled and may not be up to date. Users of hard copies should confirm the revision by comparing it with the electronically controlled version

The latest version is accessible via the NTEC website at ntec.nt.gov.au.



Election timetable

2021 Local Government Elections

28 August 2021

Date	Time	
Friday 16 July		Nominations open
Tuesday 27 July	5:00 pm	Electoral roll closes
Thursday 5 August	12:00 noon	Nominations close
Friday 6 August	12:00 noon	Declaration of nominations, draw for position on ballot papers
Monday 9 August		Postal vote mail-out commences
Monday 16 August	8:00 am	Early voting commences Mobile voting commences
Tuesday 24 August	6:00 pm	Overseas postal voting despatches cease
Thursday 26 August	6:00 pm	All postal voting despatches cease
Friday 27 August	6:00 pm	Early voting ceases
Saturday 28 August	6:00 pm	Primary counts of postal, mobile and early votes commence Election day
	8:00 am	Election day voting commences
	6:00 pm	Election day voting ceases Mobile voting ceases Primary counts of ordinary, postal and early votes commence
Monday 30 August	9:00 am	Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts
Thursday 2 September	9:00 am	Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts
Friday 10 September	12:00 noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes Final counts of postal votes commence
	6:00 pm	Distribution of preferences
Monday 13 September	10:00 am	Declaration of the election result

INDEX

BACKGROUND	1
Elections	1
Legislation.....	1
Service Charter.....	1
Service Level Agreement.....	1
BOUNDARY CHANGES	2
ENROLMENT	2
PUBLIC AWARENESS	2
Campaign overview	2
Website	2
Newsletters.....	3
Advertising – radio, television, social media.....	3
Direct digital and print advertising	4
Television.....	4
Radio.....	4
Social Media	5
Call centre.....	5
Candidate information sessions.....	5
Email and SMS	5
Other promotional activities.....	6
VOTING SERVICES	6
Nominations	6
Electronic mark-off	7
ELECTION	7
Council delivery centres	7
Early voting	7
Remote mobile voting	8
Mobile voting – urban institutions	8
Postal voting	8
Declaration voting.....	8
Participation	9
Informality	9
Voting system	10
Vote counting – election night	10
Post-election night scrutines	10
ELECTION OUTCOMES	10
Election of 2 councillors – Akityarre Ward.....	10
Election of 4 councillors – Anmatjere Ward.....	11
Election of 2 councillors – Northern Tanami Ward.....	11
Election of 4 councillors – Southern Tanami Ward.....	11
Declaration of the election results	11
ELECTION COSTS	12
ISSUES OF NOTE	12
RECOMMENDATIONS	13

For more information go to www.ntec.nt.gov.au

BACKGROUND

Elections

Election day for the 2021 Local Government Elections was Saturday 28 August. Local government general elections in the Northern Territory cover 17 local government areas and include 60 separate elections for 159 positions. For Central Desert Regional Council, there were 4 elections to be contested for its 4 wards:

- Akityarre Ward – 2 councillors
- Anmatjere Ward – 4 councillors
- Northern Tanami Ward – 2 councillors
- Southern Tanami Ward – 4 councillors

Legislation

This was the first general election under the new *Local Government Act 2019* (which commenced 1 July 2021), with further electoral legislative and regulations changes included in amendments passed in May and June 2021.

The key changes relating to local government elections resulting from these amendments are:

- Changes to declaration voting that allows electors who turn up at a voting centre, but are not enrolled (or are enrolled for an interstate address) to still cast a vote that can be admitted to the count. The declaration envelope acts as an enrolment form which is forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for processing. If the person is able to be enrolled, their vote is added to the count. Previously, declaration votes would result in updated enrolments, but their ballot papers would not be included in the count.
- Financial disclosure requirements were simplified so that only candidates who receive reportable donations and loans are required to complete a return, and disclosure timeframes were generally aligned to those in the *Electoral Act 2004*. (The financial disclosure requirements do not come into effect until 1 July 2022, so were not relevant to the 2021 Local Government Elections.)
- Other amendments included changes to the election timetable and nomination requirements.

Service Charter

The service charter (one document for all councils) provided an overview of service commitments and associated standards that councils could expect from the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC). The charter also described how councils could assist in the delivery of the elections and thereby offset some of their costs. These are detailed in individual service level agreements that the NTEC had with each council.

Service Level Agreement

For the first time at a local government election in the Northern Territory, NTEC and councils negotiated to trial a new voting option called council delivery centres (CDCs). These were essentially early voting centres that provided ordinary and declaration voting services and were located in council premises in remote communities. The CDCs were managed and staffed by councils, under the supervision of the NTEC. All regional councils were offered the option of council delivery centres and/or mobile voting services to provide voting services to electors in their remote areas.

As part of its service level agreement signed 10 June 2021, Central Desert Regional Council opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- voting services in agreed council delivery centres from 23 August 2021 to 27 August 2021
- council staff and premises for the council delivery centres
- council staff training including the requirement to provide council delivery centre managers face-to-face training in Alice Springs by NTEC

- delivery and return to communities of election materials and ballot papers in a secure and safe manner
- security of used and unused ballot papers, ballot boxes, and netbook machines
- mobile voting to minor communities if required in conjunction with NTEC
- council owned accommodation (if required) and voting premises at no cost
- promotion of the election through social media and council sites throughout the council area
- receive and forward nominations to the NTEC for official processing

All other electoral services were provided by the NT Electoral Commission.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

There were no boundary or representative structure changes as a result of the representation review of Central Desert Regional Council conducted prior to the election.

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July at 5:00pm there was a total of 2,474 electors enrolled in the Central Desert Regional Council. This was a 7.1 per cent decrease in enrolment from the previous local government general elections in 2017. The enrolment numbers per ward were as follows:

- Akityarre Ward – 257 (down from 272 in 2017)
- Anmatjere Ward – 979 (down from 1,002 in 2017)
- Northern Tanami Ward – 357 (down from 419 in 2017)
- Southern Tanami Ward – 881 (down from 964 in 2017)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

The public awareness campaign for the 2021 Local Government Elections was implemented in two broad phases. The first phase focused on awareness and enrolment. The second was a call to action for all eligible Territorians to vote.

The roll out of the public awareness campaign for the 2021 Local Government Elections commenced on 21 June and continued through until the declaration of the results on 13 September 2021. Social media was the primary channel used to promote the election Territory wide. Television, radio, digital and print media were also integral parts of the media mix.

In-language radio, TV and social media content was also created to promote the election throughout remote areas and communities in the Territory. Based on recommendations from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, content was developed in 9 Aboriginal languages which were geo-targeted to the regions where the languages are spoken.

Broadly understood Aboriginal languages such as Kriol and Arrernte were used right across the northern and southern parts to the Territory respectively to ensure that content developed in at least one relevant language other than English was available Territory wide.

Website

The website for the 2021 Local Government Elections was launched early June and provided comprehensive information for candidates and electors. The site was designed to be the primary source of information for voters about enrolment and voting options, times and locations and results.

For candidates, the site provided information about nominating, campaigning, voting and scrutineering processes.

The following table shows website engagement for the election period (21 June through to 13 September) as well as specific Central Desert Regional Council results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

Total website page views	865,814
Central Desert councillor results page views	996
Central Desert list of councillor candidates (all wards)	1,082
Central Desert council information page views	526
Other Central Desert content related page views	670
Total Central Desert content related page views	3,274

Newsletters



2021 Local Government Elections: Newsletter 2
Issue date: Friday 18 June

A total of 10 election specific newsletters were emailed to stakeholders including councils and candidates, from 28 May through to 9 September. The newsletters kept stakeholders up to date with topics ranging from nomination information through to details of vote counting. The newsletters were also available on the NTEC website and links were shared on the NTEC's Facebook page.

Advertising – radio, television, social media

NTEC branded advertisements of 15 seconds were developed for radio, television and social media. The advertisements carried simple, concise messages such as: 'check your enrolment', 'are you correctly enrolled?', 'early voting has started', and 'vote now'.

All advertisements promoted the NTEC website as the prime source of information for electors to 'find out more'.

These advertisements were also translated into 9 Aboriginal languages and broadcast on the CAAMA, Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, Yolngu Radio and TEABBA radio networks throughout the Territory.

In-language versions were also broadcast on Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia TV and ICTV channels and were geo-targeted to their respective language areas on social media.

The stock advertisements were run on social media in conjunction with a series of video logs (vlogs) featuring well-known Territorians such as Charlie King, who promoted key election messages on behalf of the NTEC.

A number of social media advertisements were developed in collaboration with Bellette Media featuring Territorians raising awareness about the elections.

Facebook engagement statistics show that the vlog format advertisements proved highly successful. In total, 8 of the 42 social media advertisements were produced in either a vlog or light-hearted format. Those 8 advertisements accounted for 152,988 video views from the campaign total of 377,810 views.

English language radio advertisements were broadcast on Hot 100 and Mix-FM stations in the Top End and Sun FM and 8HA in Central Australia.

English language television ads were broadcast on Channel 7, Channel 9 and Imparja networks. Placement of the ads was focused on 'event' TV, or high-rating programs and popular sports such as AFL and NRL matches.

In the Central Desert Regional Council area advertisements were run in Arrernte, Warlpiri and English.

Direct digital and print advertising

With a large decline in print media options since the 2017 elections, newspaper advertising for the 2021 elections was largely restricted to statutory advertising requirements as prescribed under the Electoral Act. These advertisements ran in the NT News as the Territory's primary, widely-circulated newspaper.

However, mastheads with a digital presence such as Alice Springs News Online, Tennant Creek and District Times and Katherine Times were also engaged for location targeted aspects of the campaign.

Direct digital ad placements on the millennial, tech-savvy audience favourite EA Games platform and NewsXtend proved highly successful in terms of campaign awareness.

From 92,893 video impressions served on EA Games, a view through rate of 89.9 per cent was achieved, or put another way, there were 83,486 complete through plays of the two, 15 second advertisements run across the campaign.

The NewsXtend platform also served 298,501 impressions Territory-wide and achieved 30,805 fully played video views of awareness advertisements.

The following tables outline relevant statistics for different advertising channels and platforms.

Television

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Channel 7 Darwin	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	202
Channel 7 Central		228
Channel 9		78
Imparja		127
ICTV		120
ABA		124
Bold: Channels aired throughout Central Desert Regional Council region		Total 879

Radio

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Hot 100	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	158
Mix FM		157
CAAMA		168
TEABBA		109
ABA		141
Yolngu Radio		104

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Sun FM		104
8HA		104
Bold: Channels aired throughout Central Desert Regional Council region		Total 1,045

Social Media

Campaign	Reach	Impressions	Click through rate
2021 Local Government Elections – overall	168,472	2,825,293	1.07%*
Central Desert geo-targeted in-language ads#	8,509	31,860	3.19%

*Industry standard 0.89%

#Includes only in-language ads targeted to run in the Central Desert Council area. Does not include Territory wide ads in English language

Call centre

A call centre was established on Monday 2 August and ran until 6pm on 28 August, election day. Staff assisted electors with a variety of enquiries related to the election during this period.

Enquiry type	Enquiry numbers
Total phone calls	1,522
Emails to ntec@nt.gov.au	261
Front counter	88
Formal complaints	43

Candidate information sessions

The Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) contacted every council to offer candidate information sessions which the NTEC would also present at. There were no candidate information sessions held for Central Desert Regional Council, but online resources for candidates were available from both LGANT and NTEC.

Email and SMS

Electors who have provided either their mobile phone number or email address or both are able to be contacted directly by the NTEC. Those electors in the Central Desert Regional Council area received 4 messages before election day. Details of those messages are provided in the table below.

Message	No. of emails sent	Date sent	No. of SMS sent	Date sent
Enrolment	208	19-07-2021	271	22-07-2021
Voting suspended (COVID-19)	46*	16-08-2021	232	16-08-2021
Vote now, early voting (post lockdown)	170	19-08-2021		

Message	No. of emails sent	Date sent	No. of SMS sent	Date sent
Community specific message sent 2 days before remote team visit			49	28-08-2021
Totals	424		552	

*Sent only if no SMS contact

Other promotional activities

The NTEC hosted stalls on the show circuit promoting the upcoming 2021 Local Government Elections in Katherine and Darwin only. Stalls were ready to be run in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek but these shows were cancelled due to a COVID-19 lockdown.

VOTING SERVICES

Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 16 July and closed on Thursday 5 August at 12:00 noon. For Central Desert Regional Council there were a total of 14 accepted nominations for 12 council vacancies. No nominations were rejected; however, one nomination was withdrawn for the Northern Tanami Ward.

The declaration of nominations was held at the NTEC's Central Australia election office at the Arid Zone Research Institute, 519 Stuart Hwy, Kilgariff. The event was attended by candidates, the general public and council representatives. A random number generator selected the ballot paper position for each candidate and results were uploaded onto the NTEC website and Facebook page as soon as the draw was completed.

Central Desert Regional Council – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Ward	Nominations
Akityarre Ward (2 vacancies)	Billy LIDDLE

Anmatjere Ward (4 vacancies)	Alice SNAPE
	Rodney BAIRD
	James GLENN
	Adrian DIXON
	Jeff IVERSEN
	Dan PEPPERILL
	Nathaniel DIXON

Northern Tanami Ward (2 vacancies)	Andrew JOHNSON
	Cyril TASMAN

Southern Tanami Ward (4 vacancies)	Warren WILLIAMS
	April Nangala MARTIN
	Fred J WILLIAMS
	Jacob SPENCER

Electronic mark-off

An electronic voter mark-off system is now used in all voting centres across the Northern Territory. The system records when someone has voted anywhere in the NT in real time. Where there is no internet coverage, each netbook stores the voter mark off information until such time as there is internet coverage which allows the netbooks to synchronise and send the information to NTEC offices.

Voting centres are issued paper copies of the certified lists as an emergency backup option in case of complete failure of the electronic mark off system.

The system also prevents multiple voting, as a voter who is marked off electronically in one voting centre or who has completed a postal vote will appear in all voting centres as already voted.

ELECTION

At the close of nominations the number of candidates did not exceed the number of vacancies in the Akityarre, Northern Tanami and Southern Tanami wards. Therefore, elections were not required for these wards.

Council delivery centres

An election was required in the Anmatjere Ward where early voting services were offered over 4 days in 4 council delivery centres. The table below shows the location of the council delivery centre and the number of votes issued at each one.

Council delivery centre statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Engawala	60
Laramba	63
Ti Tree	61
Yuelamu	52
Total	236

Early voting

Within the Northern Territory, early voting services were offered for two weeks (from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August) at 7 early voting centres, and for one week at the Tennant Creek early voting centre (Monday 23 August to Friday 27 August). However, from 12 noon, Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, early voting was suspended Territory wide due to a COVID-19 lockdown. To offset the loss of service to electors, early voting times were extended. The table below shows those early voting centres (EVCs) that issued votes to Central Desert Regional Council electors.

Early voting statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Alice Springs EVC	15
Katherine EVC	1
Tennant Creek EVC	4
Total	20

Remote mobile voting

The council choose not to provide additional remote voting services outside of the council delivery centres during the election period.

Mobile voting – urban institutions

A mobile voting team visited Alice Springs Hospital and the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and issued 9 votes to Central Desert Regional Council electors.

Postal voting

All electors have the option to postal vote. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, postal voting services were provided to all residents of urban aged care facilities (rather than in-house mobile voting services as provided previously) throughout the Territory. As Australia Post could not guarantee the delivery and return of postal votes to overseas addresses within the legislated timeframes, due to the impact of COVID-19 on international flights, no postal votes were sent overseas. The table below provides further details about postal votes for Central Desert Regional Council electors.

Postal voting statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	75
Number of postal votes issued	19
Number of postal vote applications rejected	56
Number of postal votes returned	15
Number of postal votes added to the count	11
Number of postal votes rejected	4

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- ward did not go to election (52)
- multiple applications received from the same elector (4)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- postal vote not signed (2)
- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (1)
- vote received too late (1)

Declaration voting

A person who cannot be found on the electoral roll, but is entitled to vote, can be issued with a declaration vote after completing and signing a declaration envelope. Their ballot paper is placed in the envelope and a scrutiny of all declaration envelopes commences the day after election day.

Legislative amendments passed in May 2021 created a savings provision that allows eligible electors who are unenrolled at the close of roll date, a chance for their vote to be admitted to the count. During the declaration scrutiny process, all declaration envelopes are forwarded to the AEC and eligible electors are added to the roll using the envelope as an enrolment form. Where voters are unable to be enrolled, their declaration vote is rejected.

For Central Desert Regional Council the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected.

Declaration voting statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Accepted	Rejected	Total
15	2	17

The reason for rejecting the 2 declaration votes was because these electors were already enrolled for a different ward or local government area to the one they completed the ballot paper for. Electors must vote for the area they are enrolled in at the close of electoral roll, even if they have since moved to another NT address.

Participation

Turnout in the Anmatjere Ward election was 29.8% (292 electors voted out of a total enrolment figure of 979). The turnout rate for this ward was less than the previous elections in 2017 where the council had a turnout rate of 41.4% (415 electors out of 1,002 enrolled).

The following table details the total number of vote types for those votes admitted to the count.

Number of votes by voting centre – Central Desert Regional Council

Voting centre	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Council delivery centres	236	80.8%
Postal voting	11	3.8%
Declaration voting	15	5.1%
Absent voting	30	10.3%
Total	292	100%

Non-voters

There were 702 identified non-voters for the Anmatjere Ward election. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

Non-voter statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
Female	67	148	101	37	353
Male	70	152	82	45	349
Total	137	300	183	82	702

Informality

Of the 292 ballot papers counted, 40 were considered informal and so not counted. This is an informality rate of 13.7%.

Informal vote statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

Intentional	Unintentional	Total
18	22	40

The informality rate is quite high, and the vast majority were unintentional. The breakdown of unintentional informal votes is:

- duplicated numbers (13)
- non-sequential numbers (9)
- incomplete ballot paper (7)
- first preference only (4)
- ticks or crosses used (3)

Voting system

The voting system for local government elections is proportional representation (PR):

- Electors must number all the boxes on their ballot paper sequentially starting with the number one for their first choice.
- First preference votes for each candidate on formal ballot papers are counted, then a quota is calculated.
- The quota is calculated using the following formula: $(\text{total number of formal votes} / (\text{number of vacancies} + 1)) + 1$.
- The candidates with votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected. If all vacancies are filled, the election is complete.
- If not, preferences are distributed to the other candidates until all vacancies have been filled.

To learn more about the PR system, go to the vote counting page on the NTEC website.

Vote counting – election night

Vote counting began immediately after the close of voting at 6:00 pm on election day. First preference votes cast at council delivery centres, with the urban mobile team and at the Alice Springs early voting centre were counted at the Alice Springs scrutiny centre.

Post-election night scrutinies

- Votes received for councillor vacancies were entered into an electronic count system that the NTEC uses to count votes using proportional representation (Easy count). All votes are then re-entered for verification purposes.
- Using this system alleviates the need to undertake a fresh re-check of ballot papers as each paper is entered and verified by two different data operators.
- Counts of declaration and postal votes returned during the counting period were undertaken over the 13 days following election day.
- Following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon on Friday 10 September, a distribution of preferences was conducted electronically using the Easy Count software.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

There were 14 candidates contesting 12 councillor vacancies. The successful candidates and first preference votes received where relevant are detailed below.

Election of 2 councillors – Akityarre Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was less than the number of vacancies and **Billy LIDDLE** was duly declared elected.

As the number of nominations received is lower than the vacancies this is a partially failed election and therefore a supplementary election has been scheduled for February 2022 for the vacancy.

Election of 4 councillors – Anmatjere Ward

At the close of nominations there were 7 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preference votes
Alice SNAPE	17
Rodney BAIRD	27
James GLENN	25
Adrian DIXON	76
Jeff IVERSEN	60
Dan PEPPERILL	11
Nathaniel DIXON	36
Total	252

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 51. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Adrian DIXON** and **Jeff IVERSEN** received the quota at count 1
- **Nathaniel DIXON** received the quota at count 4
- **James GLENN** received the quota at count 7

Adrian DIXON, Jeff IVERSEN, Nathaniel DIXON and **James GLENN** were duly elected

Election of 2 councillors – Northern Tanami Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Andrew JOHNSON** and **Cyril TASMAN** were duly declared elected.

Election of 4 councillors – Southern Tanami Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Warren WILLIAMS, April Nangala MARTIN, Fred J WILLIAMS** and **Jacob SPENCER** were duly declared elected.

Declaration of the election results

The declaration of election results took place at the Central Desert Regional Council on Bagot Street, Alice Springs at 10:00am on Monday 13 September 2021.

Declared election results for Central Desert Regional Council

Akityarre Ward (2 vacancies)	Anmatjere Ward (4 vacancies)	Northern Tanami Ward (2 vacancies)	Southern Tanami Ward (4 Vacancies)
Billy LIDDLE	Adrian DIXON Jeff IVERSEN Nathaniel DIXON James GLENN	Andrew JOHNSON Cyril TASMAN	April Nangala MARTIN Jacob SPENCER Fred J WILLIAMS Warren WILLIAMS

A copy of the full distribution of preferences is available on the 2021 Local Government Elections [results page](#) of the website.

ELECTION COSTS

Estimate of costs

Election area	Estimated costs
Public awareness	\$5,545
Staffing	\$13,988
Operational	\$8,500
Sub total	\$28,033
10% GST	\$2,803
Total estimated cost	\$30,836

Actual costs

Election area	Actual costs
Public Awareness	\$3,453
Staffing	\$15,489
Operational	\$5,423
Sub total	\$24,365
10% GST	\$2,436
Total actual cost	\$26,801

The estimate was reviewed in May 2021 and reduced to factor in no remote mobile voting services being utilised, with the council offering voting at council delivery centres in communities instead. The further reduction was due to three wards not going to poll. There will be additional costs for the conduct of the required supplementary election next year.

ISSUES OF NOTE

- Detailed electoral procedural manuals for the council delivery centres were emailed to nominated council staff on 1 July 2021. At the request of council, face-to-face training was delivered to all Central Desert council delivery centre managers on 4 August 2021. The election training coincided with other council training and meeting arrangements that brought managers into Alice Springs. The timing of the face-to-face training was before the close of nominations and the full extent of the election requirements were not known at this point. Of the 9 sites trained, only 4 were required to conduct voting services in the Anmatjere ward.
- Unreliable internet connections caused issues with the NTEC's eLAPPS devices in some council centres. This created issues at the commencement of voting in the device set-up processes and the ongoing monitoring throughout the voting period. Most sites operated in offline mode during the voting period which still enabled the device to be used to issue votes, but devices could not be synchronised to immediately detect multiple voting or enable suitable external monitoring.
- Voting participation was only 29.8% in the Anmatjere Ward. This was further highlighted in the elector turnout in the communities not located near one of the council delivery centres, which were substantially low for example; Alyuen 11.8%, Mulga Bore 7.8%, Nturiya 26.1%, Pmara Jutunta 19.0% and Wilora 5.5%.

- Sufficient nominations continue to present a challenge for the council with only one nomination received for the two vacancies. A supplementary election will be required to fill the vacancy (to be held in March 2022).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Face-to-face training for council delivery centre managers to occur after the close of nominations.
- Consideration to provide further voting services in the communities of Alyuen, Mulga Bore, Nturiya, Pmara Jutunta and Wilora as the number of electors who did not participate in this election from these communities was substantially high.
- As part of the local government representation review, the representation review committee may wish to consider the challenges associated with failed or partiality failed elections in the Akiityarre ward.